



[EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE]

Feedback Form for Commission Meeting

DATE OF MEETING: October 25, 2012

ATTENDEES:

Commission Members: Eli Ramos, Lourdes Pulig, Mabel Sienni, Sandra Spangler

Non Commission Members: Terry Richard (DOE), Jim Lesko (DOE), Deputy Director, Nancy Widdoes (DE Early Learning Challenge Office)

SUMMARY:

Nancy Widdoes informed the committee that the Early Learning Challenge Office is part of the Governor's Office and is charged with providing leadership for the DE Early Learning Challenge Grant, while three specific departments (Dept. Health & Soc. Services, DOE, and DSCYF) are responsible for implementing it. She shared opportunities for Ed. Subcommittee members to engage in grant initiatives and encourage community members to engage as well.

BROAD ISSUES IDENTIFIED:

1. The committee's months spent "Fact Finding" have been extremely beneficial. It has allowed us to learn, question, and gain committee members, as well as advocate for and connect services to the Hispanic community.
2. The Early Learning Challenge Grant has brought significant funding to DE for children from birth – kindergarten. As a high needs population, the Hispanic community is folded into the scope of work. However, noted concerns for DE Hispanics regarding Goal 2 – "Expand Number of High Needs Children in Stars Program" include:
 - Financial assistance for childcare is an issue for some Hispanics. DSS can provide child care services for eligible families where there is at least one U.S. Citizen, legal alien or qualified refugee in the family. If one member of the family is a U.S. citizen, legal alien or qualified refugee and he/she meets both technical and financial eligibility criteria,

child care services can be provided. The Division will evaluate non U.S. citizen cases on an individual basis.

- Non-working parents can use Head Start Programs for 3-5 year old children; however, there is a waiting list of 463 children statewide.

3. There is inadequate and inequitable funding to school aged Delaware English Language Learners. Citizens are getting mixed messages regarding dual language learning in Delaware. Take for example, the Governor's World Language Expansion Initiative. While the goal of the program is excellent, "To graduate globally-competitive students with advanced-level proficiency in languages, giving them an economic edge in the multilingual and multicultural workforce of the 21st century", just 20% of Delaware's elementary schools and 33% of the middle schools are expected to participate by 2020. Annual funding for this initiative is 1.9 million. At the same time, all state funds for ELL instruction have been cut. DOE/DE school districts receive limited Title III funding to educate 7,000+ ELL's (5,000 are Hispanic). Therefore, programming, staffing, and professional development is minimal. The Common Core State Standards for ELLs call for rigor. This is not possible with the current funding structure.

SPECIFIC ISSUES IDENTIFIED:

GOALS: (i.e., outreach to students, inform public, increase public awareness, engage parents, educate parents)

1. Increase public awareness of Early Learning Challenge Grant activities by disseminating Spanish/English brochures for Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy (TF CBT), and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation. We will also share eligibility information for Purchase of Care (child care subsidy).
2. Seek the audience of the Governor and policy makers to present data and request funding equitable education of Hispanic/ELL school age students. Areas to be addressed include programming, staffing, and parent outreach (reestablishing Parent Resource Centers).
3. Engage Department of Education in discussion about helping districts to support preschool programming. Assist districts in exploring creative funding structures. (Red Clay, Brandywine, Christina, IR currently Title I preschool programs – substantial funding/local dollars). Christina only district that blends IDEA 619, eCap (competitive grant) and Title I funding.

ACTION STEPS TO ACHIEVE THE GOAL:

1. The Ed. Subcommittee will maintain communication non-commission members to ensure Hispanic issues are addressed as the Early Childhood Grant is implemented. (i.e. early health

screenings – assistance for Spanish speaking parents/children, childcare/preschool access to children of nonworking or undocumented Hispanics, building the capacity of Head Start programs where there are pockets of need – Milford, Seaford).

2. Committee Member, Eli Ramos, will begin attending the monthly Early Childhood Advisory Committee meetings, reporting activity/actions back to the subcommittee.

3. Dec. 10, 2012 (Ed. Subcommittee meeting) - Review all information gathered by our education subcommittee and non-commission partners since Oct. 25th in regards to the three goals above. Plan action to address the goals.